Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the network access node is a repeater.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the network access node is further part of an ad hoc network.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the network access node is an access point.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the data signal is received from a public telephone.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising providing account debiting information to the accounting system, wherein the account debiting information represents a debit to be recorded for an account associated with the network user node.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method of crediting an account of a network access node, comprising:

receiving a data signal at the network access node;

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node; and

providing account crediting information to an accounting system, wherein the account crediting information represents a credit to be recorded for an account associated with the network access node;

providing second account crediting information to the accounting system, wherein the second account crediting information represents a second credit to be recorded to an account associated with the Internet service provider and the data signal is provided by an Internet service provider.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the network user node is a portable, handheld device having a display.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the credit is based on the forwarded data signal.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the credit is based on at least one of the time of day and airtime usage of the data signal.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the credit is calculated on at least one of a per-packet basis and a flat rate basis.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of forwarding includes transmitting the data signal using a wireless local area network (WLAN) protocol.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the WLAN protocol is the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 17, wherein the portable device is configured to operate in an ad hoc network.

16.   (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 17, further comprising means for providing account debiting information to the accounting system, wherein the account debiting information represents a debit to be recorded for an account associated with the network user node.

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17.   (Previously Presented) A portable device configured as a repeater, comprising:

    means for receiving a data signal wirelessly;

    means for forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node; and

    means for providing account crediting information to an accounting system,

wherein the account crediting information represents a credit to be recorded for an account

associated with the portable device;

    means for providing second account crediting information to the accounting

system, wherein the data signal is provided by an Internet service provider, wherein the second

account crediting information represents a second credit to be recorded to an account associated

with an Internet service provider.

18.   (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 17, wherein the credit is

based on the forwarded data signal.

19.   (Original) The portable device of claim 18, wherein the credit is based on airtime

usage of the data signal.

20.   (Original) The portable device of claim 18, wherein the credit is calculated on a

per-packet basis of the data signal.

21.   (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 17, wherein the means for

forwarding includes a wireless local area network (WLAN) transmitter.

22.   (Original) The portable device of claim 21, wherein the network user node is a

portable device.

23-28. (Canceled)

29.   (Previously Presented) An accounting method for crediting an account associated with a network access node, comprising:

receiving a communication event message, wherein the communication event message includes identification data representing a network access node, wherein the communication event message is received in response to the network access node receiving and forwarding a data signal on behalf of a network user node;

crediting an account associated with the network access node based on the communication event message; and

crediting an account associated with an Internet service provider, wherein the data signal is provided by the Internet service provider, wherein the communication event message includes third identification data representing the Internet service provider.

30.   (Previously Presented) The accounting method of claim 26, wherein the network access node receives and forwards the data signal via a wireless local area network (WLAN) protocol.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the data signal is received from a public telephone.

33.   (Previously Presented) A method of crediting an account associated with an access point, comprising:

receiving a data signal at the access point;

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node using a wireless local area network (WLAN) communication standard; and

providing account crediting information to an accounting system, wherein the account crediting information represents a credit to be recorded for an account associated with the access point,

wherein the data signal is received from the Internet.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising providing account debiting information to the accounting system, wherein the account debiting information represents a debit to be recorded for an account associated with the network user node.

35.   (Canceled)

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the network user node is a portable, handheld device having a display.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the credit is based on the forwarded data signal.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the credit is based on airtime usage of the data signal.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the credit is calculated on a per-packet basis.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the wireless local area network protocol is the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

41-42. (Canceled)

43.   (Previously Presented) An access point, comprising:

a receive circuit configured to receive a data signal;

a transmit circuit configured to transmit the data signal over a wireless local area network (WLAN) to a network user node; and

an accounting circuit configured to provide account crediting information, wherein the account crediting information represents a credit to be recorded for an account associated with the access point,

wherein the receive circuit is coupled to a public switched telephone network; and the data signal is received from an Internet service provider.

44.   (Original) The access point of claim 43, wherein the account crediting information represents a credit to be recorded for an account associated with the Internet service provider.

45.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 43, wherein the wireless local area network operates according to the IEEE 802.11 standard.

46.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 43, wherein the credit is based on the transmitted data signal.

47.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 43, wherein the credit is based on airtime usage of the data signal.

48.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 43, wherein the credit is calculated on a per-packet basis.

49.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 43, wherein the accounting circuit is further configured to provide account debiting information, wherein the account

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debiting information represents a debit to be recorded for an account associated with the network user node.

50-59. (Canceled)

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the network access node is a repeater.

61.   (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the network access node is further part of an ad hoc network.

62.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the network access node is an access point.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the account information represents a credit to be recorded to the first person's account.

64.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the account information represents a debit to be recorded to the second person's account.

65.   (Previously Presented) A method of adjusting at least one of an account of a first person associated with a network access node and an account of a second person associated with a network user node, comprising:

receiving a data signal at the network access node;

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to the network user node;

providing account adjustment information to an accounting system, wherein the account adjustment information represents at least one of a credit to be recorded to the first person's account and a debit to be recorded to the second person's account; and

providing second account information to the accounting system, wherein the second account information represents a second credit to be recorded to an account associated with the Internet service provider and the data signal is provided by an Internet service provider.

66.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the network user node is a portable, handheld device having a display.

67.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the credit is based on the forwarded data signal.

68.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the step of forwarding includes transmitting the data signal using a wireless local area network (WLAN) protocol.

69.   (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the WLAN protocol is the IEEE 802.11 protocol.